

MUDGEE WINE & HERITAGE WEEKEND ESCAPE

PRIVATELY CHARTERED TRAIN TO MUDGEE
VIA THE BLUE MOUNTAINS

WITH SCOTT MCGREGOR, BERNADETTE EICHNER,
JOHN MEDCALF AND LISSA SHARP
24 - 26 OCTOBER 2020

ON THE CAPERTEE VALLEY EXPLORER HERITAGE TRAIN



Scott McGregor's

RAILWAY ADVENTURES

INTRODUCTION

This rarely offered opportunity to travel by private train on the scenic, normally inaccessible Mudgee branch line to be wined and dined in true Mudgee-style in a single weekend escape is a treat to remember! With a well-known and much-revered train at our disposal, the retro-restored *Capertee Valley Explorer* (also known as The Blue Zephyr), made up of carriages and the Dining and Bar cars from the iconic Southern Aurora, we'll roll over the Blue Mountains, skirting the magnificent Capertee Valley to the rural idyll of Rylstone with a couple of stops and a sit-down lunch on board in the trains dining cars. Upon arrival in the charming village of Rylstone, you'll be transferred in comfortable coaches to the historic food and wine lovers' paradise of Mudgee, where the fun begins.

Staying in the best accommodation available, your weekend kicks off with an evening of retro music, dancing, fine food and wines at the famous Lowe Family winery with catering by the award-winning restaurant, The Zin House. The next day is devoted to exploring the region with tours of Mudgee, the heritage Gold Rush town of Gulgong and tastings at the finest wineries of the Cudgegong Valley. We cap off the day with a sunset cocktail reception at Scott's private Rail-themed retreat, Ruwenzori.

Your return to Sydney by private train via the historic 'Cement' town of Kandos on the Monday completes a very special, weekend of rail travel, wine tasting and the exploration of the rural heritage of one of NSW's most appealing regional districts.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Exclusive private charter of the iconic *Capertee Valley Explorer* cruise train
- Train Travel over the Blue Mountains and scenic Mudgee line to Rylstone
- A rare rail trip down the spectacular Capertee Valley
- Morning tea and lunch in the heritage Dining Car from the Southern Aurora
- Two nights in the charming heritage town of Mudgee
- Special entertainment and dinner in Mudgee's premier winery venue
- A full day touring wineries, museums, towns and gold rush villages
- Exclusive sunset cocktail reception at the outlandish Ruwenzori Retreat
- Services of your tour leaders, wine presenters and train managers throughout

MEET YOUR TOUR LEADERS

SCOTT MCGREGOR



A Mudgee native, has been involved in the media for over 30 years as an actor, presenter, writer and producer, but sharing his love of travel, and particularly railway travel, is where his passion now lies. Graduating from NIDA in 1979, he appeared in a wide range of stage, film and TV roles and presented and hosted numerous prime-time ratings winners like *Better Homes and Gardens* and *Room for Improvement*. He presented two series of his own *Railway Adventures* for Channels 7 and 10 and a number of programs for The History Channel. He established *Railway Adventures* in 2012 and also owns and operates RUWENZORI—an Orient Express-style tourist retreat on the Great Dividing Range near Mudgee.

BERNADETTE EICHNER



A successful businesswoman, a skilled presenter and an emerging voice for the over-55's, Bernadette has qualifications in theatre and psychology and owns and operates her own businesses helping organisations be the best they can be when it comes to their people. Her travel experiences are many and varied, from the wilds of the Kimberley to the port caves of Portugal, the treasures of Angkor Wat to the bright lights of Broadway, the magnificence of Scandinavia to the big skies of South Africa. Mudgee is a place she's come to know well.

JOHN MEDCALF

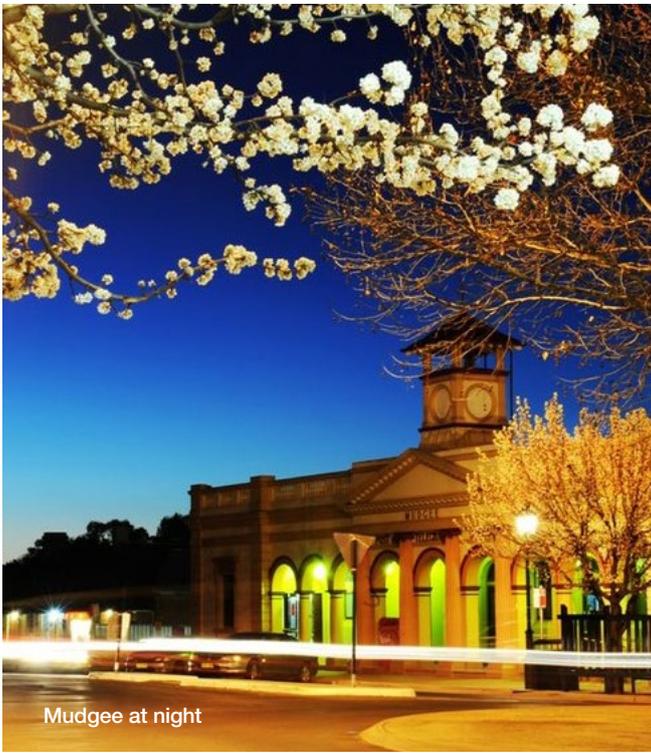


A true citizen of the World, John Medcalf has a wealth of travel experience. He began at an early age as an international flight attendant with Qantas progressing eventually to cabin crew line manager. After 26 years with Qantas John logged another 25 years as a Tour Manager leading tours in Australia and overseas. His list of countries visited now exceeds 70. The list continues to grow. Born and raised in Sydney John settled in the Mudgee area and has resided there for 25 years. He and his wife live on a property near Kandos where for 12 years they ran a B&B located in the old homestead house, established circa 1845. They spent 4 years building their dream home, a stone yurt set on the edge of the escarpment at 820 mts.

LISSA SHARP



Lissa has worked in the travel industry in Australia and overseas for 30 years and travelled to over 80 countries. She joined *Railway Adventures* in October 2018 and as operations manager plays a key role in the organisation and fulfilment of every tour in the program. Having grown up in Florence, Italy and snagging a job with Italian Tourism early in her career, Lissa was hooked on travel from a young age. A fluent Italian speaker and a lover of all things Italian, she ventured into the world of specialist small group tours and has been involved in such specialities as southern Africa, food and music, culture and history and now the wonderful world of railway journeys.



Mudgee at night

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- 2 nights' accommodation in quality hotels
- Breakfast daily, 3 lunches and 2 dinners, including some drinks (limited to approx. a glass a meal)
- Comfortable chartered coaches
- Winery and Heritage tour(s) with guides
- Return train trip from Sydney on the Capertee Valley Explorer special heritage train

WHAT WE DON'T INCLUDE

- Transfers to and from Central Station in Sydney
- Meals and services not mentioned in itinerary
- All other personal expenses such as drinks, phone calls, laundry services, etc.

FITNESS RATING

 One 'Loco' - fitness rating

DAY 1 • Saturday 24 October 2020: SYDNEY – RYLSTONE – MUDGEE

Waiting at Central Station in Sydney will be your heritage train, "The Capertee Valley Explorer" made up of retro carriages from the classic 1960's Southern Aurora (including club, dining and sitting cars). Departing at 9.00am, you'll head west over the Blue Mountains to Lithgow and Wallerawang where you'll swing onto the historic and scenic Mudgee branch line. All the while, the vistas of the spectacular Capertee Valley will be on show. In Rylstone you'll swap your private train for a chartered coach for the short trip to Mudgee, where you'll check in to your hotel, your home for the next 2 nights.

After a quick freshen-up you'll be chauffeured to one of Mudgee's favourite locations – the gorgeous LOWE Wines estate for a fun evening of wine, food and music. Wines by Lowes, catering by the award-winning chef and owner of The Zin House, Kim Currie, and entertainment by a legendary local group, will set the scene for a fun and lively evening. A VIP wine tasting is included. We'll get you back to your hotel with plenty of time to rest for the next day exploring the region.

Overnight: Parklands Resort Mudgee 4* OR Comfort Inn Aden 3*, (B, L, D)

Day 2 • Sunday 25 October 2020: MUDGEE

After a hearty breakfast at the hotel we gather to begin a series of adventures. First up are a couple of short tours, one of the history and heritage of the town and another of the surrounding wine growing area. You'll have some time for a wander around town and a coffee break before heading out on a choice of excursions: One to Gulgong, the home of a rich collection of museums and gold rush heritage buildings including the new Gulgong Holtermann photographic museum and the vast Gulgong Pioneer's Museum. The other excursion will take you to a selection of Mudgee's wineries to enjoy relaxed tastings and here from the winemakers.

In the late afternoon we will then take a short excursion north to Cooks Gap on the Great Dividing Range for a sunset soiree reception at Scott McGregor's private and unique railway themed retreat, Ruwenzori. Perched high on the mountains overlooking the valleys below, Ruwenzori is a collection of vintage railway carriages, restored in the Orient-express style, set amongst themed gardens and memorabilia. Featured in many travel articles and TV shows, it is a place that he loves to share with special friends. Here, on top of the mountain, you'll enjoy a Mudgee sunset with canapes and local beer and wine before heading back to your hotel or into town if you're interested to kick on and enjoy the atmosphere at one of the many venues in Mudgee's main street.

Overnight: Parklands Resort Mudgee 4* OR Comfort Inn Aden 3*, (B, D)

Day 3 • Monday 26 October: MUDGEE – KANDOS – SYDNEY

This morning we travel by coach to Kandos, a former industrial hub, famous for cement making in the early part of the 20th century. Here we explore the fascinating museum of its rural, colonial and industrial history before savouring a local morning tea at the old railway station where our train is waiting to depart back down the valley beyond. Once again, you'll be served a lovely 3 course lunch on board as your heritage train rolls on down the scenic Capertee Valley and over the magnificent Blue Mountains arriving in Sydney in the early evening. (B, L)

TOUR MAP



"Discover the treasures of less travelled NSW historic buildings, excellent wines, and food while enjoying the hospitality, knowledge, and fun with Scott and the team on a vintage train – a fabulous weekend."

—Kay

"Best organized tour I have been on. Staff exceptional, and nothing is a problem for them. Well done guys!"

—Ruth Scott

PRICE

Per person, twin share:

Parklands Resort Mudgee 4* \$1,785
Comfort Inn Aden 3* \$1,685

Single supplement:

Parklands Resort Mudgee 4* \$295
Comfort Inn Aden 3* \$95

Deposit (Per Person) \$250

Final payment due by 20th August 2020



Parklands Resort Mudgee

HOW TO BOOK

Download a booking form from our website and follow the easy steps to getting on board. If you'd prefer a form be sent to you or make a booking over the phone please call 1300 800 977. Complete the form and submit it, along with your \$250 pp deposit to secure your place on the tour.

DETAILS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

We endeavour to have all the details of our tours correct at the time of printing. However, sometimes factors beyond our control may affect the final inclusions and prices. These factors may include, but not be limited to; significant fluctuations in currency exchange rates, individual hotel/restaurant decisions that may affect bookings; weather events forcing a change of itinerary; unexpected trackwork on rail lines, unexpected closure of site attractions and so forth. Therefore, items mentioned in the brochure such as quoted prices, hotels and inclusions are subject to change. If a change is imposed on us, we will endeavour to ensure the substitute is of the same quality that you've paid for.

TOUR PACE / LEVEL OF FITNESS:

While you don't need to be a 'gym junky', a reasonable level of fitness is required for most of our tours. The ability to manage your own luggage, get on and off the train and coaches, walk for extended periods, stand comfortably, and climb steps and stairs will ensure you get the maximum enjoyment from your adventure.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

For more information on factors such as travel insurance requirements, fitness levels, fees and charges, tour cancellations, payment schedules and so on, please refer to our Terms and Conditions, which accompany the booking form. They can also be found on our website (click here) or by calling 1300 800 977.

THE RAILWAY ADVENTURES STORY

Railway Adventures was launched in 2012 by well-known Australian TV personality and self-confessed rail fan, Scott McGregor. A lifelong passion for travel has taken Scott to scores of countries and his preference for rail has seen him exploring many of the world's great train journeys, confirming his belief that the most relaxing, romantic and engaging way to see a country is by rail. He even has his own life-sized, fully-restored opulent train accommodation atop the Great Dividing Range near Mudgee, offering guests a rare and special bush retreat experience.

Since 2012 Railway Adventures has thrilled and delighted more than 1200 travellers on over 100 tours from Sweden to Sri Lanka, Tasmania to Transylvania, Britain to Burma, Venice to Vietnam and all manner of shorter adventures in our own wonderful country. Scott's numerous rail-themed TV documentaries, his ongoing involvement in rail heritage and his extensive connections with private train owners around the world, guarantee that every Railway Adventures tour is exclusive, entertaining and authentic. 30 August 2019.



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1300 800 977
railwayadventures.com